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EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AMERICAN RECOVERY and REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) Fact Sheet

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) received 3.1 million dollars in ARRA administrative funding in FFY 08/09, and has received 3.2 million dollars in additional ARRA funding for 2010. New ARRA proposals are due in from food banks by June 30, 2010, which will outline their projects. As of March FFY 08/09, ARRA funding has created/retained 20 food bank/vendor positions.

Approved Use of ARRA Funds

The ARRA funds can be used for USDA commodities handling, shipping, and related administrative costs. Funds may **NOT** be used for the purchase of USDA commodities. Examples of use include:

- Direct and indirect labor
- Direct/allocated warehouse supplies
- Direct/allocated transportation costs (truck lease or rent, fuel)
- Direct/allocated related administrative costs
- New equipment leases
- Building repairs and/or improvements
- Leases for additional space

Current Situation

- FFY 08/09 allowed 45 food banks to receive ARRA funding. These food banks serve over 1.5 million hungry California families and individuals annually.
- FFY 09/10 proposals are not yet due, but EFAP expects food banks will continue to expand their capacity and serve additional hungry California residents.

Examples of Food Bank Purchases (ARRA)

- Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County purchased a 24 foot box truck. By sheer size, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the lower 48 states and many families and individuals were not being served due to their great distances from the food bank. The box truck purchase allows the food bank to effectively reach more of the needy population and ensures hungry families and individuals are being fed.
- California Emergency Foodlink (Foodlink) made improvements to their 260,000 square foot storage warehouses with the purchase and installation of evaporative coolers. These coolers will reduce the summer and fall average ambient temperature from 90 degrees to 70 degrees in the warehouse facilities creating optimal commodity storage conditions by improving shelf life and food quality.
- Foodbank of Southern California used ARRA funds to initiate a new concrete foundation for the expansion of its warehouse. The food bank's increased capacity will allow it to receive, store, and move commodities quicker, reaching hungry residents more efficiently.
- Los Angeles Regional Food Bank purchased 65 freezer blankets. The purchase of freezer blankets allows the distribution sites within the food banks' area, who don't have cold storage, to receive such items as meat, cheese, and eggs. The families and individuals within the distribution area of the food bank can now receive items that are integral to their overall health and diet.